

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 /017 W

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R 201310Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5980

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: USEGJC, TPHY, OSCI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

REF:A) STATE 191626; B) CAIRO 8008

1. REFTELS EVIDENTLY CROSSED. REF B REPORTED MINISTER RATEB'S PREFERENCE FOR VISIT IN SECOND WEEK IN SEPTEMBER, AND REQUESTED HEW TRAVEL AND PER DIEM FOR 3-MAN DELEGATION. REF A INFORMED US OF HEW'S PREFERENCE FOR SEPT 30 VISIT AND PROVIDED APPROVAL FOR 2-MAN DELEGATION.

2. DCM SENT LETTER TO DR. RATEB ON AUGUST 15, ALONG LINES OF REF A (SEPT 30 DATE AND 2-MAN DELEGATION). EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED REPLY WRITTEN ON MINISTER'S BEHALF BY DR. HOMOSSANI, REITERATING PREFERENCE FOR SECOND WEEK IN SEPTEMBER (WE UNDERSTAND LATER VISIT PRESENTS SCHEDULING PROBLEMS FOR MINISTER) AND ASKING AGAIN FOR APPROVAL OF 3-MAN DELEGATION INCLUDING HOMOSSANI.

3. IN VIEW OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND TIMING, EMBASSY REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION OF DATE FOR DR. RATEB'S VISIT. DCM'S LETTER STRESSED UTILITY OF SEPT 30 PROPOSAL IN TERMS OF PREPARING AN ITINERARY SUITING MINISTER'S SPECIAL INTERESTS, BUT IF SHE IS TO MAKE TRIP AT ALL, IT WILL HAVE TO BE EARLIER.

4. ON MATTER OF SIZE OF DELEGATION, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD

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BE PREFERABLE TO ACCEDE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MEMBER,

IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT HOMMOSSANI WILL BE THE ONE.
DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, EGYPTIANS APPEAR CONVINCED THAT
THREE PEOPLE ARE GOING; TO ATTEMPT NOW TO FORCE RATEB TO
CHOOSE BETWEEN COMPETING INDIVIDUALS IN HER MINISTRY WOULD
BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO OVERALL US OBJECTIVES IN
ARRANGING TRIP. HOMMOSSANI WAS ON LIST TO GO TO VII WORLD
CONFERENCE ON DEAFNESS AT USG EXPENSE, BUT WAS UNABLE TO
GO, AND MAY FEEL THAT A VISIT IS STILL OWED TO HIM. IN ANY
EVENT, WE RECOMMEND AUTHORIZATION FOR THREE-MEMBER DELEG-
ATION.

5. REPLY ASAP WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
EILTS

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